

INSIGHTS

Volume 4: Issue 11 December 2014

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

Economic Indicators

December 2014 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	156,129,000	2,202,017
Employed	147,442,000	2,058,657
Unemployed	8,688,000	143,360
Unemployed Rate	5.6%	6.5%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,021.31	\$813.38
Avg. Weekly Hours	41.0	42.9
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$ 24.91	\$ 18.96

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Charleston MSA	1.18%	3.14%
Florence MSA	0.23%	1.95%
Myrtle Beach MSA	0.16%	3.21%
Spartanburg MSA	0.00%	1.96%

Employment to Population Ratio (SA)

	2014	2013
U.S. Population Ratio	59.2%	58.6%
S.C. Population Ratio	54.6%	54.3%

Labor Force Participation Rate (SA)

	Dec	Nov	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	62.7%	62.9%	-0.2%
S.C. Participation Rate	58.4%	58.3%	0.1%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-Month CPI	0.8%
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HIGHLIGHTS

- Labor force level sets new record
- People working sets new record
- 38 counties record lower unemployment rates
- Employers reported record employment levels

View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment
7,243



Unemployment
-2,784



Unemployment
Rate
-0.2%



Employment Rises for Fourth Consecutive Month – New Record Set

December's seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate declined 0.2 percentage points over the month to 6.5 percent. The labor force, (those employed and those unemployed actively seeking work) set a new record of 2,202,000 people. Likewise, the number of employed people set a new record of 2,058,660 people.

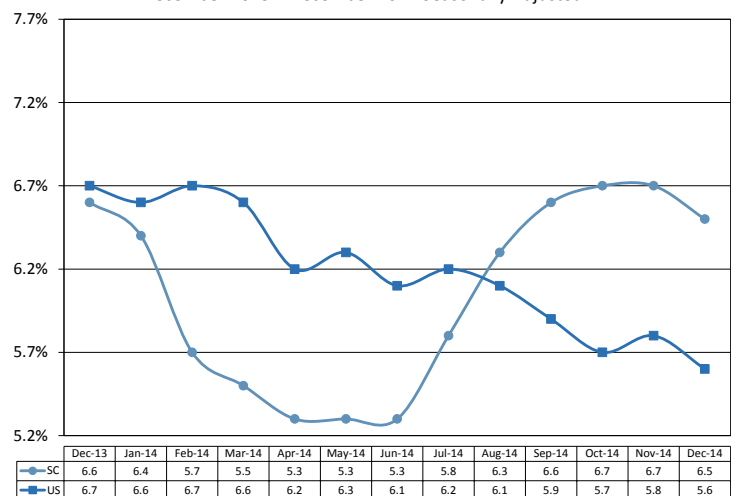
During December the number of employed people increased by nearly 7,250, while the number of unemployed was recorded at 143,360, marking a decrease of nearly 2,800 people. The monthly labor force estimate increased by almost 4,460 people.

Over the year, approximately 32,800 people found work. The number of unemployed decreased by 1,025 as the unemployment rate declined 0.1 percentage point. Approximately 33,800 people entered the labor force over the year, points almost all finding work.

Nationally, the December unemployment rate declined to 5.6 percent.

South Carolina has shown steady improvement in employment over the year, even as more people have entered the labor force seeking work. The number of people working has appreciated by about 1.6 percent, and the state's labor force has increased by nearly 1.6 percent to record levels.

Unemployment Rates in South Carolina and The United States
December 2013 – December 2014 Seasonally Adjusted



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2013 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

State Unemployment Rates

District Of Columbia	7.3
Mississippi	7.2
California	7.0
Georgia	6.9
Nevada	6.8
Rhode Island	6.8
Arizona	6.7
Louisiana	6.7
Oregon	6.7
Tennessee	6.6
<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>6.5</u>
Connecticut	6.4
Alaska	6.3
Michigan	6.3
Washington	6.3
Illinois	6.2
New Jersey	6.2
New Mexico	6.1
West Virginia	6.0
Indiana	5.8
New York	5.8
Alabama	5.7
Arkansas	5.7
Kentucky	5.7
Florida	5.6
<u>United States</u>	<u>5.6</u>
Maine	5.5
Maryland	5.5
Massachusetts	5.5
North Carolina	5.5
Delaware	5.4
Missouri	5.4
Wisconsin	5.2
Ohio	4.8
Pennsylvania	4.8
Virginia	4.8
Texas	4.6
Kansas	4.2
Montana	4.2
Oklahoma	4.2
Vermont	4.2
Wyoming	4.2
Iowa	4.1
Colorado	4.0
Hawaii	4.0
New Hampshire	4.0
Idaho	3.7
Minnesota	3.6
Utah	3.5
South Dakota	3.3
Nebraska	2.9
North Dakota	2.8

South Carolina Ranked 11th Highest of 51 in December

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 42 states and the District of Columbia experienced decreases in their unemployment rates, four states had increases, and four states remained unchanged. In December, South Carolina's ranked 11th highest out of 51. In the Southeast region, South Carolina's rate remained lower than Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

The most significant over-the-month acceleration in employment occurred in Alaska and Montana at 0.7 percent each, followed by New Hampshire at 0.6 percent. The largest reduction in employment was in Idaho and Vermont at -0.4 percent each, followed by Delaware, Minnesota, and New Mexico at -0.2 percent each.

Over the year, nonfarm employment increased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The largest over-the-year uptrend occurred in North Dakota at 5.4 percent, followed by Texas at 4.0 percent, and Utah at 3.9 percent.

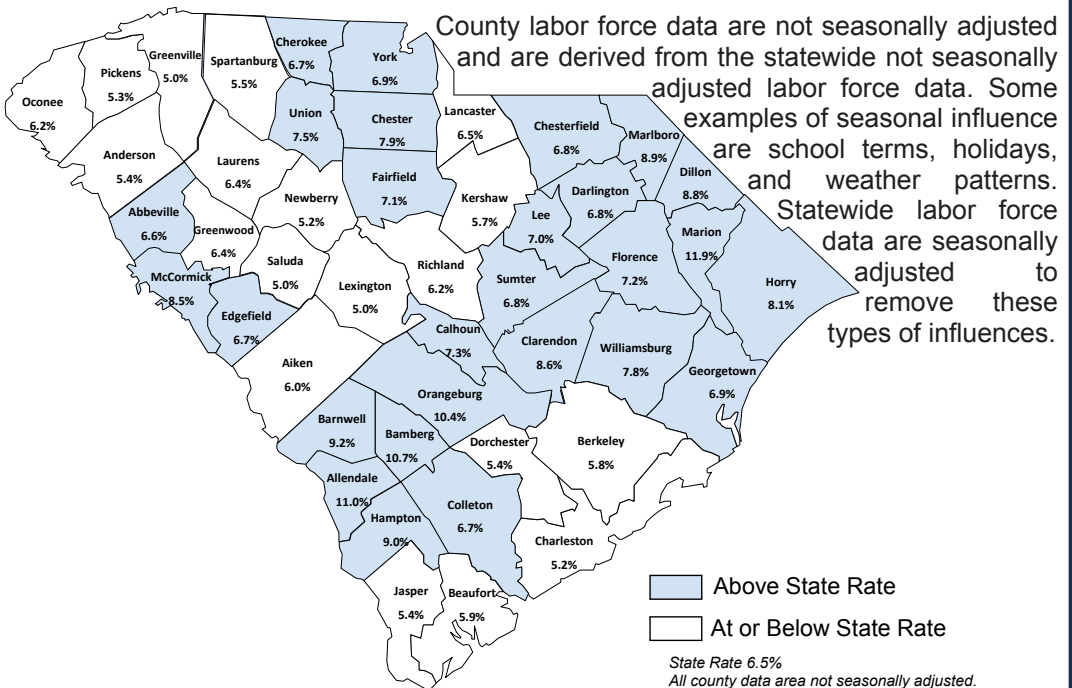
December Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates mostly declined in December. Over the month, 38 counties showed decreases in their unemployment rates; two counties saw no change; and six counties experienced rate increases.

Since December 2013, 32 of 46 county unemployment rates have declined. Allendale and Barnwell counties have marked the greatest declines at 3.1 and 1.6 percentage points, respectively.

Forty of 46 counties have seen employment growth since a year ago with Charleston County experiencing the biggest expansion (nearly 4,000 people finding work). Most areas benefited from the state's economic development. However, more than 50 percent of the growth was experienced in seven counties – Charleston, Greenville, Horry, Berkeley, Aiken, Beaufort, and Spartanburg with the balance of the growth seen in 33 counties.

Highest County Unemployment Rate		Lowest County Unemployment Rate	
Marion	11.9%	Greenville	5.0%
Allendale	11.0%	Lexington	5.0%
Bamberg	10.7%	Saluda	5.0%
Orangeburg	10.4%	Charleston	5.2%
Barnwell	9.2%	Newberry	5.2%



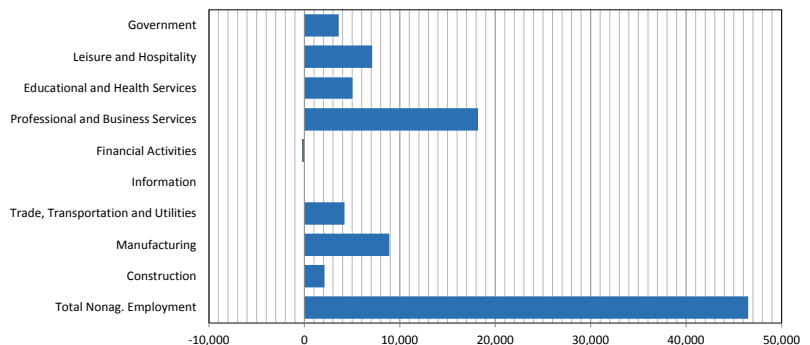
Employment Changes by County October 2014 through December 2014

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Dec 2014	Nov 2014	Oct 2014	Nov '14 - Dec '14	Oct '14 - Nov '14
Abbeville	10,262	10,210	10,227	52	-17
Aiken	72,715	72,522	73,005	193	-483
Allendale	2,913	2,897	2,915	16	-18
Anderson	83,675	83,391	83,329	284	62
Bamberg	5,163	5,137	5,166	26	-29
Barnwell	7,541	7,503	7,532	38	-29
Beaufort	62,852	62,598	62,697	254	-99
Berkeley	82,556	81,920	82,717	636	-797
Calhoun	5,930	5,982	6,008	-52	-26
Charleston	170,141	168,830	170,473	1,311	-1,643
Cherokee	23,774	23,631	23,674	143	-43
Chester	13,718	13,653	13,710	65	-57
Chesterfield	17,649	17,568	17,627	81	-59
Clarendon	11,249	11,197	11,248	52	-51
Colleton	16,014	15,931	16,003	83	-72
Darlington	27,987	27,935	27,920	52	15
Dillon	11,584	11,523	11,590	61	-67
Dorchester	66,008	65,500	66,137	508	-637
Edgefield	10,266	10,238	10,306	28	-68
Fairfield	9,262	9,343	9,384	-81	-41
Florence	58,683	58,571	58,542	112	29
Georgetown	27,717	27,697	27,898	20	-201
Greenville	220,891	220,383	220,972	508	-589
Greenwood	28,998	28,842	28,884	156	-42
Hampton	7,175	7,138	7,170	37	-32
Horry	116,084	117,995	121,097	-1,911	-3,102
Jasper	10,187	10,146	10,162	41	-16
Kershaw	27,330	27,569	27,688	-239	-119
Lancaster	31,589	31,447	31,546	142	-99
Laurens	28,328	28,262	28,338	66	-76
Lee	7,498	7,480	7,535	18	-55
Lexington	127,475	128,593	129,148	-1,118	-555
McCormick	3,056	3,037	3,052	19	-15
Marion	10,161	10,143	10,212	18	-69
Marlboro	10,334	10,284	10,298	50	-14
Newberry	17,419	17,388	17,411	31	-23
Oconee	30,052	29,916	29,981	136	-65
Orangeburg	36,228	36,054	36,237	174	-183
Pickens	54,717	54,591	54,737	126	-146
Richland	170,253	171,746	172,488	-1,493	-742
Saluda	8,327	8,400	8,437	-73	-37
Spartanburg	132,289	131,453	131,649	836	-196
Sumter	41,135	40,960	41,174	175	-214
Union	10,855	10,785	10,808	70	-23
Williamsburg	14,490	14,442	14,518	48	-76
York	105,338	105,136	105,671	202	-535

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for December - Seasonally Adjusted

In December 2014, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment increased by 2,900 from November to the level of 1,968,000. This increase sets a new high employment level. The increase in employment was primarily due to growth in Professional and Business Services with a gain of 3,300. During December, along with increases in the Professional and Business Services, there was growth in Construction (+1,100); Manufacturing (+800); Education and Health Services (+600); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+500). Industries reporting declines were Leisure and Hospitality (-2,300); Other Services (-500); Financial Activities (-300); Information (-200); and Government (-100).

South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
December 2013 - December 2014 (SA)



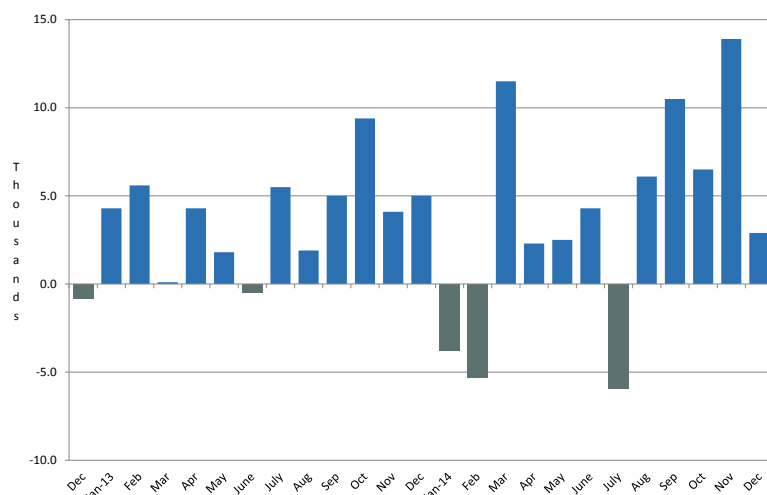
Over-the-year growth in nonfarm employment was 46,500. The industry reporting the largest gain since a year ago was Professional and Business Services (+18,200). Manufacturing followed, reporting a growth of +8,900 with Leisure and Hospitality slightly behind (+7,100). Additional gains were seen in Education and Health Services (+5,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,200); Government (+3,600); and Construction (+2,100). Information industry remained flat.

Over-the-year, industries that saw declines included Other Services (-2,500) and Financial Activities (-200).

Metropolitan Statistical Areas seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment over-the-month, saw employment increases in Charleston (+3,800); Florence and Myrtle Beach (+200). The Metropolitan Statistical Area which saw the largest decline in employment was in Columbia (-3,100). Additional setbacks were also noted in Greenville (-600) and Anderson (-100). Spartanburg and Sumter remained flat.

Every Metropolitan Statistical Area saw seasonally adjusted payroll employment growth over-the-year. The most prominent incline was in Charleston (+10,100); followed by increases in Greenville (+8,100); Myrtle Beach (+4,000); Spartanburg (+2,600); Florence (+1,700); and Anderson (+1,500). Modest growth was reported in Sumter (+800) and Columbia (+300).

SC Total Nonfarm Jobs
Change from Prior Month
2012 -2014



To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to

www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

(Employment and Wage Data section)

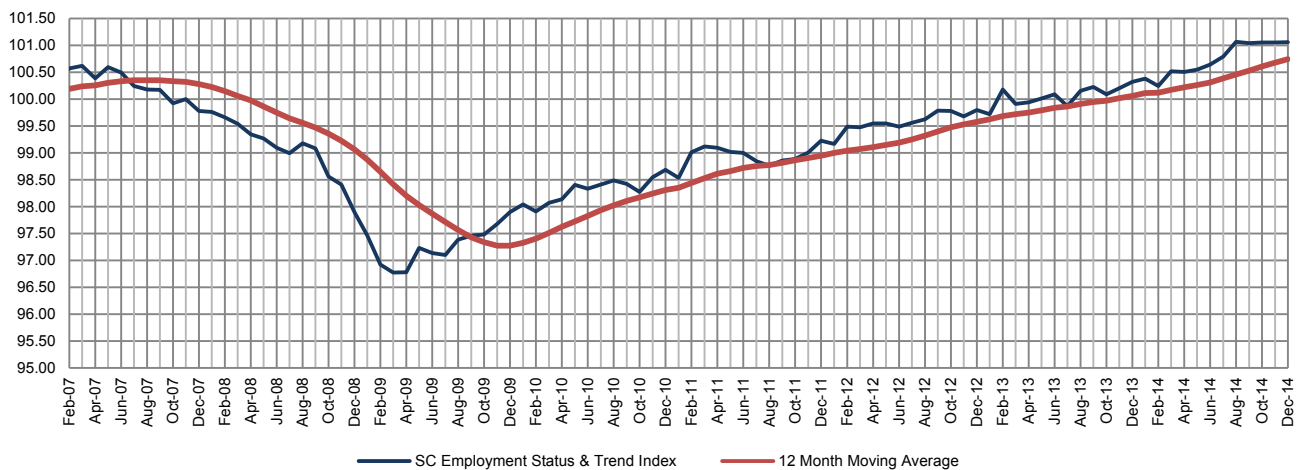
South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Re-visits All Time High

After an unchanged month of November, the South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) edged up 0.01 points, re-visiting its all-time high of 101.06, a record it first set in August. Leading the upward movement of SCESTI this month is a 1.76 percent rise of the Conference Board's US Consumer Confidence Index, coupled with a 1.42 percent gain of the Manufacturing Average Weekly Working Hours. The Conference Board's US Employment Trend Index was also higher for December by 0.46 percent. On the negative side, the number of Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance increased almost 30 percent. This, coupled with a 0.78 percent drop of the Conference Board's SC Help Wanted Online Ads, was a heavy drag for SCESTI.

Compared with 12 months ago, SCESTI and all five of the index components managed healthy advancements. SCESTI was 0.74 percent higher than it was in the last month of 2013. The greatest advances are seen in the Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims and the Conference Board's US Consumer Confidence Index, improving 20.19 and 19.48 percent, respectively. The Conference Board's US Employment Trends Index and its SC Help Wanted Online Ads were also higher than December 2013, rising 7.34 and 5.68 percent, respectively. The Manufacturing Average Weekly Working Hours moved up 0.70 percent.

The ability of SCESTI to keep steadily close to its highest levels since August and the fact that the index had been moving above the 12-month moving average for 40 consecutive months (since August 2011) indicate sound improvements for the employment situation in South Carolina throughout at least the middle of 2015.

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index



The Unemployment Rate – A Tale of Two Surveys

What Do the Surveys Measure?

The state's unemployment rate is produced using the results from two monthly surveys of households and employers. Results of these surveys, along with unemployment insurance (UI) claims data, are used as sources in determining the unemployment rate for the state.

Household data is collected with the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of the population 16 years of age and over. The survey is conducted each month by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and provides comprehensive data on the labor force, the employed, and the unemployed. It also captures characteristics such as age, sex, race, family relationship, marital status, occupation and industry attachment. The survey also collects characteristics and past work experience of those not in the labor force.

Trained interviewers use a sample of about 50,000 households located in 792 areas of the United States. This sample represents counties and cities in all states and the District of Columbia. The data reflects the activity or status for the calendar week including the 12th of the month (to avoid most major holidays and other seasonal variations).

Data based on employer (sometimes called establishment) records are collected monthly from mail questionnaires and telephone interviews by the BLS in cooperation with each state. This survey, called the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, is designed to collect nonfarm wage and salary employment, average weekly hours, average hourly earnings, and average weekly earnings for the nation, states, and metropolitan areas. The employment, hours, and earnings information is derived using a sample of over 390,000 establishments, employing over 47 million nonfarm wage and salary workers in the United States. It collects for full or part-time employment for those who receive pay during the payroll period, which includes the 12th of the month.

The household and employer data complement one another with each providing significant types of information that the other cannot. Population characteristics, for example, are obtained from the household survey, whereas industrial classifications are from establishment reports.

Data from these two sources differ because of variations in definitions, coverage, source of information, methods of collection, and estimating procedures. Sampling inconsistencies and response errors can also explain discrepancies, but the areas contributing to the differences in these two surveys are employment, hours of work, earnings, and UI.

Employment

Differences in Employment Collection	
Household Survey	Establishment (Employer) Survey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wage and salary workers (including domestics and other private household workers) • Self-employed persons • Unpaid workers (who worked 15 hours or more during the reference week in family-operated enterprises) • Both agricultural and nonagricultural industries • No duplication of employment (each employed person counted once) • Can be absent from work during the survey week (because of illness, vacation, bad weather, child care problems, labor-management disputes, or because they were taking time off for various other reasons, even if they were not paid by their employers for the time off) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wage and salary employees on the payrolls of nonfarm establishments • Individuals counted each time/place/company they work (can appear more than once) • Workers on any kind of paid leave during the survey week are not counted

Hours of Work

Differences in Hours of Work Collection	
Household Survey	Establishment (Employer) Survey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hours worked for ALL workers at work Does not include those not at work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hours only for private production and nonsupervisory workers Still counted if absent (paid vacation, paid holiday, or paid sick leave)

Earnings

Differences in Earning Collection	
Household Survey	Establishment (Employer) Survey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wages for all occupations and industries Includes both private and public industries Wages from sole or primary job 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes production workers in Mining and Manufacturing Construction workers in the Construction industry Nonsupervisory workers in private industry and service workers

Household vs. Unemployment Insurance

The unemployed total from the household survey includes all individuals who:

- Did not have a job during the reference week,
- Were currently available for a job,
- Were looking for work, or
- Were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off (whether or not they were eligible for UI).

Figures on UI claims are prepared by the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor. The data excludes:

- Otherwise eligible persons who do not file claims for benefits,
- Persons who have exhausted their benefit rights,
- Persons who have been disqualified from receiving benefits,
- New workers who have not earned rights to unemployment insurance, and
- Persons losing jobs not covered by UI systems (For example: some workers in agriculture, domestic services, and religious organizations, and self-employed and unpaid family workers).

In addition, the qualifications for receiving unemployment compensation differ from the definition of unemployment used in the household survey. For example, persons with a job but not at work and persons working only a few hours during the week are sometimes eligible for unemployment compensation but are classified as employed rather than unemployed in the household survey.

Together, figures from these surveys are primary data sources in determining a state's unemployment rate. Unemployment insurance claims data, to a lesser extent, supplements the surveys in determination of the unemployment rate.